GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6472
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2000
ENCROACHMENT OF FOREST LAND BY STS
RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes communities have encroached upon the forest land;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are empowered to regularise the occupied forest land illegally by the Scheduled Tribes before 1980;

(c) if so, the number of Scheduled Tribes who have encroached upon the forest land alongwith the area of land regularised, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) Yes,Sir.

(b) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980, Rules and Guidelines thereof, all the cases of subsisting encroachments of forest land of pre-1980 where the State Government stand committed to regularise encroachment of forest land for cultivation and other purposes on account of past commitment, may be submitted to Ministry of Environment & Forests for seeking approval under Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980. Such proposals should invariably conform to the criteria that State Government had taken a decision before enactment of the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980 to regularise `eligible` category of encroachments. The proposal submitted by the State Government is processed as per the guideline issued under the Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980.

(c)&(d) A statement showing status of proposals of regularisation of pre-1980 encroachment on forest land received from various State Governments/Union Territories under Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980 is at annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 6472 due for answer on 8/5/2000.

Status of Proposals of Regularisation of Pre-1980 Encroachments on Forest Lands ReceivedFrom Different State Governments/Union Territories Under Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980.

S.NO.	NAME OF STATE/U.T.	DISTRICT	AREA (HECTARES)	REMARKS
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Andamans	1,367	Approved in August,1988.
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Andamans	89	Approved in-principle on 31.1.1992
3.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Andamans	735	Essential Details sought from UT Administration on 5.10.89
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang	10,160	Essential Details sought from State Govt.Reminded on 7.10.99.
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang	13,419.29	Approved in-principle on 23.10.1992
6.	Gujarat	Dangs, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha etc.	10,900	Approved in Nov.,1994.

7. Gujarat 10 districts 39,750.59 Approved in-principle on 17.11.1994

8. Karnataka Chikmaglur, Dakshin Kannada, Mysore etc. 732 Rejected on merits on 8.4.1996.

9. Karnataka 19 diff. dists. 14,848.83 Approved in May, 1996.

10. Kerala Idduki, Eranakullam etc. 28,588.159 Approved in January,1995

11. Madhya Pradesh All districts 1,82,889 Under Consideration.
12. Madhya Pradesh 10 districts 63,449.13 Approved in July 1990.
13. Maharashtra Dhule 10,185.32 Essential Detail sought from State Govt.
14. Maharashtra Gadchiroli 28,886.4 Essential detail sought from State Govt.
15. Rajasthan 10 districts 3171.4 Information sought from State Govt. on 2.12.98. Reminded on 30.7.99.